Oman and Southern Arabia

a current bibliography

No.1 August 1979

This current bibliography brings references to, and sometimes brief reviews of the new literature about Oman and Southern Arabia. We try to cover Oman in depth while literature about other countries in the area, and about the political developments in the region only are included if we think it is of special importance.

BOOKS

Al-Aarji, Nazik, Jassim Al-Zubaidi and Christian Freund
Oman. Man & Revolution. Aden, PFLO Information Committee, 1978, 64 p.
A short text in both English and Arabic accompanies the many fine black/white photographs.
(Distributed by the CSRO, 14 rue Nanteuil, 75015 Paris, France).

Birks, I.S. and C.A. Sinclair
The Sultanate of Oman: Economic Development, the Domestic Labour Market and International Migration.
Geneve, ILO, 1978. 98 p. (World Employment Programme Research, Working Paper WEP 2-26/WP 28).
Gives a detailed, and full description. Many tables.

Halliday, Fred
Iran. Dictatorship and Development. Harmondsworth, Penguin, 1979. 348 p. (A Pelican Original).
New important book analysing the economic, social, and political developments in Iran until late 1978. Contains a wealth of background information which will help under-

A somewhat difficult book on the modern history of Oman and the socio-political foundations of the present regime. With index and substantial bibliography.

PFLO
In the Path of Self Reconstruction and Perseverance in the Revolutionary War. PFLO. Central Information Committee, 1979 (?). 24 p. (June 9 Studies).
Historical important speech given by Abdul Aziz Abdul Rahman al-Qadi, chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the PFLO on the occasion of the 9th June, 1977. (Available from KROAG at £ 1/$ 2).

PFLO
The Regionalization of the War in Oman and the Fate of the Tribal Groups in Dhofar. PFLO. Central Information Committee, 1979 (?). 29 p. (June 9 Studies).
Analysis in detail an important aspect of the imperialist strategy against the Omani revolution: The employment of firqats, Dhofarians (often former revolutionaries) organized in tribal groups. (Available from KROAG at £ 1/$ 2. If you order both 'June 9 Studies' the price is £ 1.5o/$ 3).

Shannon, Michael Owen
Oman and Southeastern Arabia. A Bibliographic Survey. Boston, G.K.Hall, 1978. 165 p. (app. US$ 20). (G.K.Hall, 70 Lincoln Street, Boston, Mass., USA).
A successful and useful bibliography on western publications about Oman. Contains 988 references to books, articles from magazines and newspapers, reports and maps. A number of the references are annotated. The bibliography covers publications published till the end of 1976, and a few references from 1977. The references are arranged by author or title. It also includes a combined index of subjects, authors, and titles, and an index of cited magazines. The preface of the bibliography is a brief, but very good introduction of a number of principal works, useful for the study of Oman.
Limitations. The bibliography has references to quite a lot of English publications of the Muscat regime, but does not try to cover the English publications of the PFLO (AG), (there is not a single reference to "Saut al-Tawra" or to "The 9th June).

A few collections of the statements of the PFLO (published by the Gulf Committee and others) are included, however, but this does not appear from the context.

Finally it must be emphasized that it is mainly a bibliography of English publications (app.95%), though this is not mentioned in the book. French and German publications are certainly not covered satisfactorily; for example, there are 18 references to articles in "The Economist" and only 1 to "AfricAsie".

Townsend, John
Oman. The Making of the Modern State. London, Croom Helm, 1977. 212 p.

The author was economic advisor for Qaboos in the period 1972-75, and the book is mainly based on his experiences from that period. The first part of the book contains a thorough description of the geographical and historical background. Then follows a knowingly, critical and very detailed evaluation of the development since 1970. Although Townsend does not have much sympathy for the PFLO, he is critical towards the rule of Qaboos from a modern, enlightened imperialist point of view. His account of the economic policy under Qaboos, gives many incredible examples of incompetense and waste in the management of Oman's natural resources. Fx the costly, and quite uneconomical desalination plant in Muscat was made, because Qaboos wanted water for the palace garden (p.137). The last part of the book analyses the regime's possibilities to survive, seen on the background of the mistaken economic policy.

Wilkinson, J.C.
Water and Tribal Settlement in Southeast-Arabia. A Study of the Aflāj of Oman. Oxford, Claredon, 1977. 276 p. (£ 12.50).

A detailed historical study of Oman's special irrigation-system. Does not contain much of general interest.

ARTICLES

Birks, J.S.
Development or Decline of Pastoralists. The Banī Qitab of the Sultanate of Oman. (Arabian Studies 4 (1978), p.7-19).

Focus on Oman - 1979. (International Herald Tribune, Supplement, June 1979, 4 p.)
Brief survey: Oil, Economy, New Military Alliances etc.

Oman. (Middle East Economic Digest, Special Report, September 1978, 52 p.). (£ 3.5o).
Various articles on the present economic and political development. With some useful statistical tables.

Oman: vers l'avenir. (France-Pays Arabes, No.78, Okt/Nov 1978, p.16-33).
Economy, politics, relations to France.

Scholz, Fr.
Die beduinischen Stämme im östlichen Inner-Oman und ihr Regional-Mobilitäts-Verhalten. (Sociologus NF 27 (1977), p.97-133).

Scholz, Fred
Sultanat Oman. Ein Entwicklungsland im Südosten der Arabischen Halbinsel. Beschreibung der Entwicklung vor und nach 1970 und Versuch einer Analyse der Hintergründe und Perspektiven. (Die Erde, Vol.108: 1-2,1977, p.23-74).
This article tries to analyse the geographical-economical development of Oman till about 1975-76. Unfortunately the author seems to be too naive and trustful towards the statistics and other information of the Muscat regime. The article contains a lot of good maps and photographs. Bibliography.

Spoliansky, Leon G.R.
Modern Business Law in the Sultanate of Oman. (The International Lawyer, Vol.13:1, Winter 1979, p.101-118).

MATERIALS FROM THE CSRO

The french support group for the PFLO, distributes a number of materials:

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